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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/577,275	04/26/2006	Hilmar Hegner	016906-0502	2496
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EXAMINER				
LE, THANH TAM T				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2839				
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07/25/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/577,275

Applicant(s)

HEGNER ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

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2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-9 and 11-17 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-9, 11-15 and 17 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 8, line 2, "positioning aid" should be --positioning aids--; and "is" should be --are--; or "positioning aid" lacks an antecedent basis.

Claim 9, line 2, "positioning aid" should be --positioning aids--; and "is" should be --are--; or "positioning aid" lacks an antecedent basis; and line 3, "the outer contour" lacks an antecedent basis.

Claim 16, line 2, "positioning aid" lacks an antecedent basis; line 3, "the side walls" lack an antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 2-5, 12-14 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miner et al. (5,044,964).

Regarding claim 12, Miner et al., figures 5A-5B and 7A show a plug connector for making electrical contact with a load (20) in a bus system with a conductor run comprising a contact maker (44 and 52) comprising bus compatible electronics, and a

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fixing element (51) for arranging the contact maker in a housing (2, column 5, lines 44-46),

wherein the housing comprises an upper shell (not labeled), a lower shell (not labeled), and at least two openings, with a first opening (not labeled) for a flat conductor (6) to pass through being formed by cutouts in a side wall of the upper shell and the lower shell, and a second opening (not labeled or where the pins 50 are inserted) for making contact between the contact maker and the load (figure 7A),

wherein the second opening is an opening in the upper shell of the housing (figure 5A).

Regarding claim 2, figure 5B shows the bus-compatible electronics are arranged on a surface (a bottom surface of 52) of the contact maker.

Regarding claim 17, the surface is a front face.

Regarding claim 3, contact elements for making contact between the electronics (44) located on the contact maker and the flat conductor are arranged on the front face of the contact maker.

Regarding claim 4, figure 5B shows contact areas for making contact between the contact maker and the load are arranged on a rear face (a top surface of 52) of the contact maker.

Regarding claim 5, figure 5B shows a front face and the rear face of the contact maker are electrically connected to one another.

Regarding claim 13, figure 5B shows the upper shell and the lower shell are connected to one another by one web (46) such that they are joined to form the housing by being folded together.

Regarding claim 14, the web acts as hinges (column 5, line 43).

4. Claims 6-7, 11-12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Malkowski, Jr. (6,273,750).

Regarding claim 12, Malkowski, Jr., figures 3-5 show a plug connector for making electrical contact with a load (84, figure 4) in a bus system with a conductor run comprising a contact maker (62 and 94, figures 4 and 5) comprising bus compatible electronics, and a fixing element (130, figure 5) for arranging the contact maker in a housing,

wherein the housing comprises an upper shell (52, figure 4), a lower shell (54), and at least two openings, with a first opening (70, figure 4) for a flat conductor (42, figure 3) to pass through being formed by cutouts in a side wall of the upper shell and the lower shell, and a second opening (64, figure 4) for making contact between the contact maker (62) and the load (84),

wherein the second opening is an opening in the upper shell of the housing.

Regarding claim 6, figure 5 shows the fixing element comprises an opening (not labeled) whose dimensions correspond substantially to those of the contact maker (94), so that the contact maker can be arranged in the opening in the fixing element.

Regarding claim 11, figures 4 and 5 show the size and shape of the housing are selected such that the contact maker and the fixing element are accommodated in the interior of the housing.

Regarding claim 15, figure 4 shows the upper shell and the lower shell of the housing comprise latching elements (56) which allow the housing to be assembled without additional fastening means.

5. Claims 7-9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Campbell et al. (5,669,775).

Regarding claim 12, Campbell et al., figure 13 shows a plug connector for making electrical contact with a load (power supplies, column 7, lines 16-20) in a bus system with a conductor run comprising a contact maker (210, figure 13) comprising bus compatible electronics, and a fixing element (220) for arranging the contact maker in a housing,

wherein the housing comprises an upper shell (102) a lower shell (104), and at least two openings, with a first opening (not labeled) for a flat conductor (22) to pass through being formed by cutouts in a side wall of the upper shell and the lower shell, and a second opening (not labeled or where the an area 208 is located) for making contact between the contact maker and the load,

wherein the second opening is an opening in the upper shell of the housing.

Regarding claim 7, figure 13 shows the fixing element has positioning aids (not labeled) for arranging the flat conductor on the fixing element and for arranging the fixing element in the housing.

Regarding claim 8, the positioning aids formed from more spikes (outer threads) which are integrally formed on an outer edge of the fixing element (220).

Regarding claim 9, the positioning aids formed from projections (outer threads) of an outer contour of the fixing element (220).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of references of the prior art shows the projections of the fixing element engage in the cutouts in the housing when the housing is assembled (as set forth in the claimed combination).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thanh-Tam T. Le/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2839.
7/20/08.

